TAWHEED

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Unfortunately many Muslims are unaware of the meaning of the first pillar of Islam, the *Kalimah* of *Tawheed*. They are ignorant of its meaning, pillars and conditions and for this reason we have tried to explain the basis of the whole of Islam within this short leaflet.

It must be **stressed** that knowledge of the *Shahadah* and acting according to it, is what makes us Muslim and eligible for *Jannah*. Vice-versa not abiding by the *Kalimah* will earn *Jahannam (hell-fire)*. So the *Tawheed* must be given more importance than our prayers and fasting since without accepting and understanding it our prayer and fasting will be invalid. Seeking knowledge of the *Kalimah* precedes seeking knowledge of anything else.

Misconception 1: "The *Kalimah* means there is no God but God"

Some may understand the *Kalimah* to be the above, but this is a very shallow, incomplete understanding and is far from its true meaning. Rather it means "there is no-one worthy of being worshipped, followed or obeyed except Allah." In this we can find the **two pillars of *Tawheed*.** The first being **to disbelieve in all things worshipped, followed or obeyed, whether kings, presidents, graves, laws, idols, freedom etc.** The second pillar being **belief in Allah and submission to Him**

"So whoever disbelieves in Taghut (anything worshipped, followed, obeyed besides Allah) **and believes in Allah has grasped the most trustworthy handhold that will never break." [EMQ 2:265]**

Misconception 2: "To believe in Allah makes you Muslim"

Someone may think that if you believe in Allah you are Muslim and this is completely incorrect. One does not become Muslim unless he satisfies both pillars. If believing in Allah made someone enter Islam then the Quraysh would be Muslim since they believed in Allah as the creator, provider etc. Read the following verse carefully:

"Say, [O Muhammad], "To whom belongs the earth and whoever is in it, if you should know?" They will say, "To Allah." Say, "Then will you not remember?" Say, "Who is Lord of the seven heavens and Lord of the Great Throne?" They will say, "[They belong] to Allah." Say, "Then will you not fear Him?" Say, "In whose hand is the realm of all things - and He protects while none can protect against Him - if you should know?" They will say, "[All belongs] to Allah." Say, "Then how are you deluded?" [23:84-89]

We can see the Quraysh believed in Allah but they did not enter Islam, because they did not reject all the idols which they directed their worship and obedience towards. So it must be understood that one must reject and disbelieve in all the idols, laws, graves, democracy, trees, kings etc. **then** take up belief in Allah.

Misconception 3: "If I say the *Kalimah* I will go to *Jannah*"

It is incorrect to say whoever says the *Shahadah* will go to *Jannah* but it is correct to say whoever says the *Shahadah* and acts according to it will go to *Jannah*. Saying the *Kalimah* without any prayer, fasting, obedience to the *Shariah* will nullify your *Kalimah*.

It was said to al-Hasan, 'People say that whoever says, 'None has the right to be worshipped,' shall enter Paradise.' He said, 'Whoever says, 'None has the right to be worshipped save Allah,' and fulfils its obligations and meets its requirements, shall enter Paradise.'

Meaning of the Shahadah: There is none worthy of worship, to be followed, or obeyed besides Allah (and Muhammad (peace be upon him) is the final Messenger).